

Torrance, California
March 25, 1941

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday evening, March 25, 1941 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Councilman Powell moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held March 11, 1941 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held March 18, 1941 be approved as written. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from Torrance High School, requesting free use of the Civic Auditorium for the Junior-Senior Prom May 22, 1941.

Councilman Powell moved the request be granted. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the City Planning Commission, advising that the application of the Star Brick and Tile Company to establish a dump on Western Avenue between 174th and 182nd Streets had been denied at a meeting of the Planning Commission held February 3, 1941.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Star Brick and Tile Company be notified of this decision and requested to dispose of refuse already deposited at the location requested for a dump. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Louis C. H. Quandt, Waleria, advising that the land owners and farmers of Waleria propose to pump out the existing flood water near Waleria and extending eastward to Doheny Hydril plant and west on Ellinwood ranch. Cost of the job was estimated at \$1800.00, the City being asked to assume \$400.00 of the cost. A communication from Bob Ueda was also referred to, wherein he stated a pump company had estimated the job at \$995.00. It was requested that the City assume 50% of the cost.

Engineer Jain stated Mr. Gripper of the State Highway Department had been greatly perturbed because the City had not closed the street to heavy traffic. Mr. Jain said Mr. Gripper had agreed that passenger traffic could probably use the street without damage to the pavement, but that heavy traffic definitely should be kept off the street until the flood water has been eliminated. Councilman Hitchcock said that a dike is being constructed along the sides in order to pump the water off the boulevard.

After prolonged discussion, Councilman Hitchcock moved that the Police Department be authorized to close the street to heavy traffic until such time as Engineer Jain feels that heavy traffic can proceed on the street without damaging the pavement. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Engineer Jain was instructed to contact Chief Stroh, Street Superintendent Gascoigne and Councilman Hitchcock for discussion and action on this matter.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communications received from Mr. Quandt and Mr. Ueda relating to the flood water condition near Walteria be referred to the City Engineer. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Knights of Columbus, Redondo Beach Council No. 1990, requesting the City to adopt a resolution to observe Good Friday, April 11, 1941 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 P.M. by suspending all business and closing offices so far as is compatible with public welfare.

Mr. Gramling in the assemblage stated that the resolution had been presented and adopted last year.

At 8:00 P.M., bids for a used portable air compressor for the Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1 were opened as follows by Clerk Bartlett:

BIDDER

BID

1. Crook Company
2900 Santa Fe Avenue
Los Angeles, California

\$1378.68

A certified check in the amount of \$175.00 accompanied the bid.

2. Lee and Thatro Equipment Company
821 South Santa Fe Avenue
Los Angeles, California

875.00

A certified check in the amount of \$91.00 accompanied the bid.

At 8:05 P.M., Councilman Hitchcock moved that the meeting recess while the City Engineer, Attorney, Water Superintendent and Council examine the bids. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

At 8:08 P.M. the meeting reconvened.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that all bids be rejected and the purchase of a used portable air compressor for the Water Department be made on the open market. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Murray moved that the request of Knights of Columbus, Redondo Beach Council No. 1990 to observe Good Friday be complied with, Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Gramling remarked that the Redondo Beach Council No. 1990 covered Redondo, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Torrance, Lomita and Walteria.

A communication was read from the Associated Assessment Engineers in connection with a letter submitted by said company March 10, 1941 recommending that the City petition the State Legislature to enact into law Assembly Bill No. 1635, which would create a "free period" permitting payment of taxes without penalties and interest for a period of 120 days. Detailed information regarding the effects of such legislation in past years was submitted, and the recommendation offered that all possible influence to passage of the bill be used at this particular time.

Councilman Powell moved that the communication be filed. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the State Fire Marshal, advising that the State Fire Marshal, in cooperation with fire equipment manufacturers, has developed an experimental portable first aid fire fighting unit and offering to demonstrate same if desired.

Councilman Powell moved that the Council go on record as requesting demonstration of the unit described by the State Fire Marshal, a suitable date to be arranged later. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Chief of Police of the City of Gardena, commending Chief Stroh and members of the Torrance Police Department for cooperation and assistance extended to the Gardena Police Department, and offering the services and cooperation of the Gardena Police Department at any time said services are desired.

An application from Shell Oil Company, Incorporated, for franchise for pipe line was read. Mr. Warren of the Shell Oil Company, Incorporated, was requested to enter into the discussion of the matter. He explained that the three routes mentioned in the application are tentative routes and can be modified to conform to the desires of the Engineer and Council. He said Shell Oil Company's primary concern is to get from one certain point to another, regardless of route necessary to accomplish this. He said the alternate routes had been designated because it is not definitely established yet just at what point the line will enter the City of Torrance. He stated their right of way has to come from the Santa Fe offices, but must be officially sanctioned by the Chicago office, which has not been received to date but is expected daily.

Mayor McGuire asked whether or not it would be better for the Council to designate several routes at this time, or whether action should be deferred until the right of way is received. Mr. Warren said if several routes are designated, it is almost certain that one will be suitable.

Councilman Powell suggested that the Attorney and Engineer check the matter thoroughly. Councilman Hitchcock asked that Engineer Jain be authorized to designate two routes and present them at an adjourned meeting.

Mr. Warren said that, due to the length of time it takes for franchise proceedings to be completed and the ordinance to become effective, early action will be appreciated so that plans can be made to start laying pipe line as soon as possible.

It was agreed that an adjourned meeting for discussion and possible action on this matter would be held April 1, 1941 at 4:45 P.M.

Mr. Warren said he would arrange for a Shell Oil Company Engineer to contact Engineer Jain within the next few days.

Mr. Jain said Mr. Gripper of the State Highway Department had advised that the State has used all its funds allocated for Highway 101 and that \$950.00 is needed to complete work up to July 1, 1941. Mr. Jain said that \$2800.00 is available in the $\frac{1}{4}$ Gas Tax Fund for use on highways. He suggested that the City give the \$950.00 to the State for use of Highway 101 and allocate the balance to 174th and Hawthorne Avenue.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the request of Mr. Gripper of the State Highway Department and the recommendation of Engineer Jain that the City pay to the State Highway Department \$950.00 out of the \$2800.00 available for use on highways from the $\frac{1}{4}$ Gas Tax Fund be complied with. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Jain asked what should be done about the request received to install signals on Hawthorne Avenue and 101 Highway. He said the matter had been left unsettled after the proposal to put in a signal system at a cost of \$3800.00 was rejected. He said he thought an effort should be made to secure stop signs. Several stop signs are on 101 Highway between Torrance and Long Beach, he pointed out, which do not seem to slow up traffic. Matter to be investigated further.

Attorney McCall read legal documents in connection with a suit between the City of Torrance and William Ellis Lady for acquiring title to certain property, originally owned by a glass manufacturing concern. It was requested that the Council authorize the City Attorney to sign a stipulation granting judgment in Superior Court case. The State of California, Mr. McCall added, has already entered into the stipulation. The form of stipulation the Attorney was requested to sign and the form of decree he was asked to approve were enclosed.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Attorney be authorized to sign the stipulation as requested. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

In connection with the suit pending between the City of Torrance and the Pacific Electric Railway Company for acquisition by the City of the Cabrillo Avenue right of way, Attorney McCall reported that the judgment was signed March 20, 1941 by Judge Roy B. Rhodes of the Superior Court, which concludes the legal part of the transaction.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Engineer be authorized to fill out the necessary form requesting the County of Los Angeles to allocate $\frac{1}{4}$ County Gas Tax Funds for use in removing the tracks and appurtenances on Cabrillo Avenue, and that the City Clerk be authorized to make the payment agreed upon amounting to \$8055.00 to the Pacific Electric Railway Company and the Chemical Bank & Trust Co. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the City Clerk be authorized to write a letter to the Cabrillo Avenue Improvement Association, advising of the above action. Councilmen Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$451.70 be made for material for street repair for various streets in the Vista Highland district damaged when the sewer line was put in. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Hitchcock asked for a report on the request the City made to the Santa Fe Railway Company to improve Madrid Avenue. Mr. Jain said he had contacted the officials of the Santa Fe Railway Company, who are contemplating using the line even more extensively than heretofore, due to the defense plan, as the line on Madrid Avenue is the only line to the harbor owned by said Santa Fe Railway Company. Mr. Jain said he had submitted improvement of Madrid Avenue as part of the Torrance Boulevard W.P.A. proposal.

Councilman Hitchcock asked Mr. Gascoigne if anything had been done about the request to remove the small park in Walteria at the intersection of Hawthorne Avenue and Newton Street. Mr. Gascoigne replied in the negative. He said he would attend to the matter as soon as possible.

Councilman Babcock asked that something be done toward placing street signs in the Vista Highlands District. Councilman Hitchcock was authorized to attend to the matter.

Mayor McGuire moved that the City Clerk be authorized to advertise for bids for pipe and materials for the Water Department. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire moved that the City Clerk be authorized to advertise for bids for cleaning and painting the storage tank and tower for the Water Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Klusman stated that the curb near the Municipal Park is in bad condition and asked that it be repaired. Mayor McGuire advised that plans are being formulated by the Engineer to take care of this matter and of the troublesome corner on Narbonne Avenue.

Mr. Klusman asked that the recreation buildings be painted white.

Mr. Klusman complained about the water, stating that it is practically unfit to drink.

Councilman Hitchcock moved all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:59 P.M., upon motion of Councilman Babcock, seconded by Councilman Murray, the meeting adjourned to April 1, 1941 at 4:45 P.M.

A. H. Barrett
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

APPROVED:

Tom F. McGuire
Mayor of the City of Torrance